

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his indication of allowance of Claims 8-10 and 12 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims. By this amendment, Applicant has canceled Claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 13-15 and included the subject matter therein into amended Claims 6 and new Claims 16 and 17, respectively, to immediately place Claims 6, 9-12, 16 and 17 of the present application in condition for allowance.

More particularly, the claims have been revised as follows: Claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claims 7, 8 and 15; new Claim 16 has been added and includes the subject matter of Claims 6, 7, 9 and 15; and new Claim 17 has also been added and includes the subject matter of Claims 6, 10 and 15. Claim 12 was deemed allowable in its present form.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in the present application, namely, Claims 6, 9-12, 16 and 17 are patentably distinguishable over the references of record and action on the merits of this application is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) that may become due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s), to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

Respectfully submitted.



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